

be aliened the exercise of their one religion,
but how this is
to be done with security to the Protestant
religion, our
laws, and oaths, is in my humble opinion,
what will
deserve serious consideration, and is above
what I can
presently determine myself in." ¹

When the Revolution came Hamilton
declared against
James, was chairman of the assembly of
Scottish lords
and gentlemen which requested the Prince of
Orange to
call the Convention, was elected president of
the Con-
vention when it met, and was appointed High
Commis-

sioner when it was turned into a Parliament.
Macaulay
speaks rather slightly of Hamilton's
abilities ; Burnet
is still more depreciatory. ' He wanted all
sort of pol-
ishing : he was rough and sullen, but candid
and sincere.
His temper was boisterous, neither fit to
submit nor to
govern. He was mutinous when out of power,
and im-
perious in it/ Burnet confesses that Hamilton

' seemed
always to have a regard to Justice, and the
good of his
country/ but adds that his * narrow and
selfish temper '
rendered him unfit for great affairs.² In spite
of his de-
fects Hamilton's importance made him
indispensable, and
his correspondence during the first eighteen
months of
William's reign is an authority of great
value.³

The conversations with William III, which
the Mar-

quis of Halifax recorded in his journal,
contain a number
of references to Scottish politics during those
months.

Scotland was one of William's difficulties.
Before he
became king he told the Marquis of Halifax
that Scotland
by its divisions * would give him more
trouble than any-

¹ Ibid, p, 175,

² own Time, i. 103.

³ Hamilton MSS., pp» 176-94, Parts of the correspondence
are printed in
the **Leven** and Melville Papers, 1689-1691 {Bannatvne Club,
1843), and were
used by **Macaulay**, but there are many letters which he
never saw.